

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
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UNCLAS ANKARA 5605

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN
SUBJ: UN VISIT ON GOT POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: (A) ANKARA 5457 (NOTAL), (B) GENEVA 4711 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 20 THE UN INFORMATION OFFICE IN ANKARA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING THE JULY 7-17 VISIT TO TURKEY OF HIGH-LEVEL UN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS DE BEUS (UNFDAC), REUTER (INCB), AND LING (DND) REPORTED IN REF. A. SIGNIFICANT EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

2. ASSESSMENT OF GOT CONTROL PROGRAM: "STATING THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN THE MISSION THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE PROGRAM IN OPERATION, DR. DE BEUS CONTINUED... 'WE NOW FEEL SOLIDLY ENTITLED TO COME TO A CONCLUSION: THE CONCLUSION IS THAT THE SYSTEM DEFINITELY WORKS. WE DO NOT BASE THAT ONLY ON THIS TRIP WHERE, OF COURSE, OUR IMPRESSIONS MUST BE SUPERFICIAL, BUT WE HAD MUCH INFORMATION ALREADY BEFORE, IN OUR HANDS. WHENEVER ILLICIT OPIUM COMES UP IN THE ILLICIT MARKET, WE ARE INFORMED ABOUT IT AND, FROM ALL THE EVIDENCE RECEIVED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OPIUM AT ALL FROM THE 1975 TURKISH OPIUM HARVEST. FROM THE 1975 TOTAL HARVEST OF 5,800 TONS OF POPPY
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STRAW IN TURKEY THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY DIVERSION OR LEAKAGE

TO THE ILLICIT MARKET. THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT RESULTS NOT ONLY FOR TURKEY BUT ALSO FOR MANY OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WOULD HAVE SUFFERED FROM SUCH LEAKAGE TO THE ILLICIT MARKET. WE, THEREFORE, FEEL FULLY JUSTIFIED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAMME WHICH IS THE BIGGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS."

3. APPLICABILITY OF TURKISH CASE TO OTHER COUNTRIES:

"MR. DE BEUS AND DR. LING, DIRECTOR OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, REITERATED THAT THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT THE SYSTEM IS WORKING. HOWEVER, THERE ARE FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHERE THE SITUATION IS AS IN TURKEY; POSSIBILITIES OF CONTROL OF THE HARVEST ARE MUCH BETTER IN TURKEY THAN MOST OF THE OTHER POPPY GROWING COUNTRIES. FIRST OF ALL, THE AREA IS CONCENTRATED; SECOND, IT IS AN AREA WHICH IS EASILY APPROACHABLE, THERE ARE GOOD ROADS; THIRD, TURKEY IS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WITH A GOOD ADMINISTRATION AND A GOOD PART OF THE SUCCESS IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE EXCELLENT AND DEDICATED STAFF OF THE SOIL PRODUCTS ADMINISTRATION AND OF THE JANDARMA, AND GOOD POLICE, AND FINALLY TO THE VERY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE FARMERS THEMSELVES. THESE CONDITIONS DO NOT GENERALLY EXIST IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE OPIUM POPPY IS OFTEN GROWN IN WIDELY SCATTERED, ROUGH MOUNTAIN AREAS AND IN SOME OF WHICH, THERE ARE EVEN NO ROADS, AND WHERE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT AS WELL DEVELOPED AS IN TURKEY."

4. EXTENSION OF CULTIVATION TO ADDITIONAL PROVINCES:

"REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE OPINION OF THE MISSION MEMBERS REGARDING POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE CULTIVATION AREA, MR. DE BEUS EMPHASIZED THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE FUND, SUCH A MOVE WOULD DEFINITELY HARM THE PRESTIGE AND RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THE CONFIDENCE WHICH THE SYSTEM IS NOW BUILDING UP. PROF. REUTER AND DR. LING COMMENTING ON THE SAME QUESTION SAID THAT TURKEY IS A SOVEREIGN STATE AND SUCH DECISION DEPENDS ON THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT THE MISSION WAS INFORMED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO EXTEND THE PRODUCTION TO OTHER
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PROVINCES."
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